other special tax on sugar. Furthermore, import of raw sugar & white/refined sugar has been opened to private traders in addition to existing designated agencies and *the levy obligation has been removed in respect of imported sugar.* The future trade of sugar has been suspended up to Dec 2009 in order to keep speculative activities in check.

Development of Haryana SEZ

1373. SHRI AMAR SINGH:

SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Haryana SEZ is being developed by a private developer;

(b) the quantum of land acquired by the contractor for the project up till now;

(c) the time-frame by when the project is intended to kick start;

(d) whether there is any delay in the project; and

(e) if so, the details of the penalty clause to be imposed on the contractor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) In terms of SEZ Act, 2005, Special Economic Zones(SEZs) may be established either jointly or severely by the Central Government, State Government or any person. The quantum of land required for setting up of SEZ depends on the sector for which SEZ is being established. So far as the state of Haryana is concerned, 31 SEZs have been notified involving 1351.42 hectares of land.

(c) to (e) In terms of Rule 6 of the SEZ Rules, validity of approval is for a period of three years within which time effective steps are to be taken by the developer to implement the approved proposal. On a request received from the developer, the Board of Approval can extend the validity period upto two years.

Effect of GM rice on exports

1374. SHRI THOMAS SANGMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the magnitude of rice exports from India in volume and in value;

(b) what impact would genetically modified rice trials and production have on such an export;

(c) whether India has a ban on genetically modified rice trials in the Basmati belt of the country for protecting our exports from genetically modified contamination; and

(d) if so, why is the same ban not being extended to other rice belts since exports of non-basmati rice is higher in volume and value?